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SIP/IAPA examines state of press freedom

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

PREZ AND PRADO



Bolivia's President Evo Morales waves to reporters upon his arrival in Santiago, Wednesday, March 10, 2010. Morales is in Chile to attend Pinera's inauguration on March 11.

Read more on Page A7

SPORTS NEWS

RODDICK ROLLS



Andy Roddick celebrates his win over Tommy Robredo, of Spain, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, Calif., Friday, March 19, 2010.

Read more on Page A12



PALMBEACH-Approximately 250 editors and publishers from the Western Hemisphere will take a close look at the setbacks in press freedom throughout the Americas this weekend in Aruba at the biannual membership meeting of the Inter American Press Association (IAPA).

The principle mission of the IAPA's Midyear Meeting, which will be officially opened by Prime Minister Mike Eman of Aruba and Prime Minister Emily De Jongh-Elhage of the Netherlands Antilles, is to review the major problems limiting freedom of the press and free speech and develop strategies so that the fundamental human rights are not violated.

Review of the country-by-country reports from Latin America, North America and

the Caribbean will begin on Saturday when it is expected that the following issues will provoke intense discussion: the murder and kidnapping of journalists in Mexico and Honduras linked to organized crime; the imprisonment of journalists in Cuba and hunger strikes by dissidents to demonstrate resistance; the closing of news media in Venezuela, together with the creation of state-owned media there as well as in Ecuador and Bolivia; the enactment or proposed bills for gag laws in Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay; legislation on professional confidentiality and regulations on the Internet in the United States, and legal actions used to continue censoring media and journalists in Brazil,

to name a few.

Special attention will be given during the meeting to the plight of the press in Haiti and Chile following earthquakes. The IAPA has joined other organizations in the hemisphere in an effort to give financial aid to rebuild the news media that was devastated in each country. In this regard, the editors and publishers of the leading newspapers of Haiti, La Nouvelliste and Le Matin, will present reports on their situations.

Two special reports on freedom of the press will be delivered in Aruba: on the difficulties faced by Venezuelan news media to operate without government interference and the poor state of health that independent journalists are suffering in Cuban prisons, as well as the frail state of journalist Guillermo Fariñas who is holding his hunger strike to demand for the release of prisoners of conscience in his country.

The meeting will close on Monday (March 22) with adoption by the SIP - IAPA membership of resolutions and conclusions, which will immediately be sent to the Western Hemisphere governments concerned.

The IAPA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the defense and promotion of freedom of the press and of expression in the Americas.

It is made up of more than 1,300 print publications from throughout the Western Hemisphere and is based in Miami, Florida. For more information, please go to <http://www.sipiapa.org>.

APNewsBreak:



People gather at a memorial service held at Poway High School for teenager Chelsea King Saturday March 13, 2010, in Poway, Calif. Thousands of people attended the memorial for the 17-year-old girl whose murder has shaken her community and spurred calls for legal changes in how child sex offenders are treated.

Associated Press

Calif boosts sex offender tracking

DON THOMPSON,

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — California parole officials said Friday they have ordered increased monitoring of all sex offenders after recent high-profile lapses, most notably the case of a young woman who was held captive for 18 years.

The new policy requires parole agents to more closely track the movements of offenders using GPS-linked ankle bracelets.

Continued on Page 5

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Rice regrets how U.S. prioritized rebuilding in Iraq



Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gives a speech during a lecture on "Asia's Future" at the Chinese University of Hong Kong Friday, March 19, 2010.

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — said Friday she would the Bush administration
Former U.S. Secretary of "many times over liberate" failed to work closer with
State Condoleezza Rice Iraq again, but she regretted Iraqis to rebuild the war-

torn country.

Rice, speaking at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said she believed history would eventually vindicate many of the decisions made during the presidency of George W. Bush.

"I would many times over liberate Iraq again from Saddam Hussein," Rice said.

"I think he was a danger to the Middle East."

However, she suggested the U.S. government failed to understand "how broken Iraq was as a society" and should have focused its rebuilding efforts outside of Baghdad, the capital.

"We tried to rebuild Iraq from Baghdad out, and we really should have rebuilt Iraq from outside Baghdad in," she said.

"We should have worked with the tribes, worked in the provinces," she said, adding that smaller projects should have been favored over big ones.

"That's something that in retrospect that we finally got right" several years after the 2003 invasion. "And it's one reason I think Iraq has a chance."

Rice served Bush as national security adviser and later as America's chief diplomat. She now is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution public policy research group at Stanford University.

She is en route to the Chinese island of Hainan for the Boao Forum, an annual conference where executives hobnob with global leaders, early next month. □



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Judge orders renegotiation of 9/11 settlement

DAVID B. CARUSO

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Friday rejected a legal settlement that would have given at least \$575 million to people sickened by ash and dust from the World Trade Center, saying the deal shortchanged 10,000 ground zero workers whom he called heroes.

"In my judgment, this settlement is not enough," said U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein, who delivered his pronouncement to a stunned gallery at a federal courthouse in Manhattan.

Rising from his chair, the 76-year-old jurist said he feared police officers, firefighters and other laborers who cleared rubble after the 9/11 terror attacks were being pushed into signing a deal few of them understood.

Under the terms of the settlement, workers had been given just 90 days to say yes or no to a deal that would have assigned them payments based on a point system that Hellerstein said was complicated enough to make a Talmudic scholar's head spin.

"I will not preside over a settlement that is based on fear or ignorance," he said.

Of the proposed settlement of \$575 million to \$657

million, workers stood to get amounts ranging from a few thousand dollars to more than \$1 million.

Hellerstein said the deal should be richer. Too much of it would be eaten up by legal fees, he said.

A third or more of the money set aside for the workers was expected to go to their lawyers. Some plaintiffs had agreed at the start of the case to give as much as 40 percent of any judgment to cover fees and expenses.

That might have meant \$200 million or more going to attorneys.

Hellerstein, who presides over all federal court litigation related to the terror attacks, ripped into the agreement after hearing several ground zero responders speak tearfully of their illnesses and after receiving letters and phone calls from others expressing confusion about the deal.

He said he was speaking "from the heart" out of great compassion for the thousands of men and women who spent time at ground zero.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the judge's actions would kill the settlement entirely.

The deal had taken years to negotiate and was

announced March 11, with about two months to go until the first trials.

A spokeswoman for the law partnership that negotiated the settlement on behalf of the workers said she had no comment on the judge's remarks.

Christine LaSala, president of the WTC Captive Insurance Co., a special insurance entity created by Congress to represent the city in the lawsuit, said the judge "has now made it more difficult, if not impossible, for the people bringing these claims to obtain compensation and a settlement."

She said the lawyers would confer with city officials and "try to find a way forward."

New York City's chief lawyer, Michael Cardozo, said, "We have great respect for Judge Hellerstein and will consider his comments, but his reaction to the settlement will make it extremely difficult to resolve these cases."

Hellerstein laid out a number of proposed fixes for what he saw as deficiencies in the settlement and told the two sides to resume negotiations.

He rejected the idea that a third or more of the money



New York City resident Lori Angelone who was present in court holds a banner describing her husband Louis's ailments outside Manhattan federal court, Friday, March 19, 2010, in New York.

Associated Press

should go to the plaintiffs' lawyers and said the legal fees should be paid by the WTC Captive, not the workers.

Hellerstein said workers should have ample opportunities to ask questions and get answers about the settlement, and he offered to go on a mini-speaking tour to get information to the plaintiffs.

"I will make myself

available in union halls, fire department houses, police precincts and schools," Hellerstein said.

He said more money should be set aside for people who later develop cancer that may be linked to ground zero toxins. He said he wanted to retain ultimate control over which workers were entitled to have claims paid.

Continued on Page 5



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House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, gestures during a health care overhaul news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 18, 2010.

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders lobbied intensely for landmark U.S. health care legislation Friday, gaining momentum and another precious “yes” 48 hours ahead of a climactic vote.

Associated Press

Obama has put his presidency on the line to gain passage of his top domestic priority in the face of Republicans who say the plan is a government takeover of health care that will lead to higher deficits and taxes. The health care reform program would affect every American and remake one-sixth of the

Obama, Democrats push hard ahead of health vote

U.S. economy. For the first time, Americans would be required to have health insurance. The United States is the only major industrialized democracy that does not have a universal health care system.

With a showdown set for Sunday on the House floor, Democratic leaders still did not command the 216 votes they needed, so every undecided lawmaker was the focus of personal attention from the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and the White House, and every “no”-to-“yes” conversion was trumpeted by party leaders. Obama, who delayed a trip to Indonesia and Australia to help ensure passage of the legislation,

spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at a suburban university, lobbying attacks at the insurance industry with his coat jacket off and sleeves rolled up.

“The only question left is this: Are we going to let the special interests win once again, or are we going to make this vote a victory for the American people?” he said.

Obama described the stakes in stark terms, using words uttered so rarely out of the White House that they seem all but banned: “If this vote fails.”

What then? “The insurance industry will continue to run amok,” the president said, pointing to rising rates, denials

of coverage and limits on care. Meanwhile in Congress, the vote-counting spotlight swung to Rep. John Boccieri, a Democrat, who announced that he would support the bill despite voting against an earlier version.

“I’m not worried about the election,” he said. “I’m worried about doing what’s right.” Boccieri became the fourth House Democrat to switch from “no” to “yes.” Shortly after he announced his decision, Pelosi predicted: “When we bring the bill to the floor, we will have a significant victory for the American people.”

The conversation was all about how Democrats would vote since Republicans have formed a virtually impenetrable phalanx of opposition for the past several months.

Both liberal and conservative Democrats are not happy with some provisions in the legislation.

The momentum was not all in the right direction for Democratic leaders. Some rank-and-file Democrats who backed an earlier version of health care legislation when it passed the House in November showed signs of defecting. Weaker restrictions on federal funding of abortion was a concern, but not the only one.

Rep. Stephen Lynch, a Democrat and former labor union activist, said even a one-on-one meeting with Obama on Thursday had not convinced him that the legislation did enough to reform the health system and rein in insurers and drug companies.

“I’m still currently opposed,” Lynch said in an interview Friday. “But the president asked me to think about it, and if there were some type of measure that might move me to a better place on the bill, then he wanted to hear about it.” □



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It also requires agents to visit high-risk sex offenders at their homes twice a month, up from just one monthly visit.

The policy change memo independently obtained by The Associated Press came after agents were criticized for not discovering a convicted sex offender was allegedly keeping Jaycee Dugard hidden at his Contra Costa County home for 18 years.

Corrections officials are also reviewing whether they should have revoked the parole of John Albert Gardner III, a convicted sex offender now charged with murdering one San Diego County teen and being investigated in the death of another.

"We basically have higher level tracking not only on high-risk sex offenders but even on low-risk sex offenders," said Gordon Hinkle, spokesman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. "This is basically areas that we felt needed improvement."

The policy changes respond to a report in November from the department's inspector general that criticized it for



John Albert Gardner III appears in San Diego Superior Court on Tuesday March 9, 2010 in San Diego. A San Diego judge has postponed the preliminary hearing for the sex offender accused of murdering 17-year-old Chelsea King. Superior Court Judge David J. Daniels on Tuesday rescheduled the hearing from March 18 to Aug. 4. Gardner is also under investigation in the death of 14-year-old Amber Dubois, whose remains were found Saturday 10 miles from the site where King disappeared.

missing chances to catch Phillip Garrido, who is now charged with kidnapping and sexual assault in the Dugard case.

Authorities say the convicted rapist fathered two children with Dugard after she was taken from a South Lake Tahoe street in 1991, when she was 11. Garrido and his wife, Nancy Garrido, have pleaded not guilty.

The new policy requires increased use of GPS tracking of those considered less likely to re-offend.

"Public safety is of paramount importance,"

Associated Press

Margarita Perez, deputy director of the department's Division of Adult Parole Operations, said in the policy memo distributed Thursday to parole agents □

911*Continued from Page 5*

Hellerstein acknowledged that he felt a personal connection to the case, calling it "the greatest burden in my life," but insisted that his unusual intervention was legally and morally necessary, given the importance of 9/11 to the country.

"This is no ego trip for me. This is work," he said.

Hellerstein spoke after several ground zero recovery workers had risen in court to describe a litany of health problems they believe are linked to inhaling the ash and dust left by the collapse of the World Trade Center.

The settlement rejected by the judge would have created a pool of at least \$575 million for sick workers. That amount could rise to as much as \$657 million if enough people accept the deal. Injured workers would get a payment in exchange for dropping their suits against New York City and the dozens of construction contractors it hired to handle the cleanup.

Money for the settlement would be funded with nearly \$1 billion in federal taxpayer money that has already been appropriated.

The deal covers a broad list of ailments suspected of being linked to trade center dust, including asthma, chronic coughing and interstitial lung disease, which involves scarring of lung tissue. Some types of cancer are also covered.

For the plaintiffs with relatively minor ailments, payments would have ranged from \$3,250 to \$9,760. William Groner, an attorney on the team that negotiated the settlement, estimated that 40 percent to 60 percent of the workers would fall into that category.

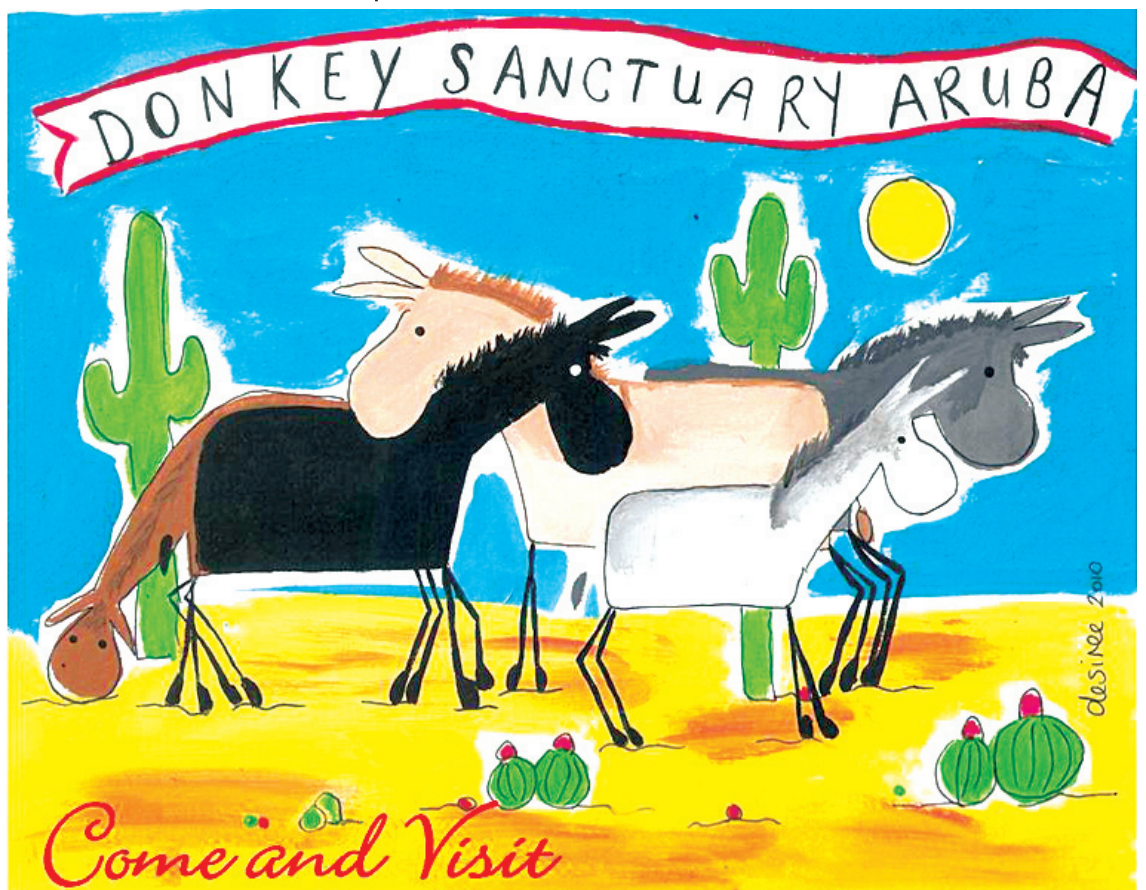
The rest were to have divided the remaining millions in the pot, with a handful of the sickest getting \$1 million or more. The amount they got would have been based on a complicated scoring system that ranks each illness by severity. □

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Little fanfare for 7th anniversary of war in Iraq

REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Seven years after the first bombs in the war to oust Saddam Hussein, Iraqis went about their business Friday with little observance of the anniversary, looking to the future with a mixture of trepidation and hope.

Perhaps more important in the minds of many was the ongoing wait for final results from the country's second nationwide parliamentary election. The milestone will determine who will oversee Iraq as U.S. forces go home, but could also point the direction the fragile democracy will take down the road — deeper into the sectarian divide that followed Saddam's fall, or toward a more secular, inclusive rule.

"Now we have democracy and freedom, but the cost was dire and Iraqis have paid that price," said Raid Abdul-Zahra, 38, a technician in Najaf.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition appears to be ahead in the tight race. With almost 90 percent of the vote counted as of Thursday, his coalition was leading in 7 of Iraq's 18 provinces compared to 5 provinces for his closest rival, the Iraqiya coalition led by secular Shiite Ayad Allawi.



A man walks through the rubble of a building belonging to the former Iraqi army, and destroyed during the air campaign in the early stages of the war, in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, March 19, 2010. Almost seven years after the first bombs fell in the war to oust Saddam Hussein, Iraqis went about their business Friday with little observance of the anniversary, looking to the future with a mixture of trepidation and hope.

Associated Press

Al-Maliki's coalition also has about 40,000 votes more in the overall vote count.

Many, especially among the country's Sunni-minority that dominated Iraq during Saddam's rule, blame the U.S. for the sectarian violence that erupted after the invasion.

"Failure is the word that should be linked with the U.S.

war.

The Americans brought people to power, but those people are specialized in reprisals, blackmail, inflaming sectarianism and robbing," said Mohammed Thabit, a retired teacher from Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

While violence has plummeted since the height of the bloodshed in 2006 and 2007, attacks continue, although in much smaller numbers.

On Friday, at least five people were killed across Iraq.

Three people died when a

bomb exploded in the Sadr City slum in east Baghdad; gunmen killed an Iraqi soldier in Baghdad; and a roadside bomb in the northern city of Mosul killed an Iraqi soldier, police and hospital officials said. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Many Iraqis view the U.S. withdrawal plans with mixed feelings — pride that their country is regaining its full sovereignty but also concern that the lull in violence may

break and bloodshed return.

"If the forces leave speedily, there will be a power vacuum and more problems will erupt because Iraqi forces are not loyal to Iraq but to their party affiliations," said Abdul-Karim Moussa, 55, in Baghdad.

Others think the violence will dissipate after the U.S. pulls out.

"I think the violence will vanish after the American withdrawal because they are causing the violence. They entered Iraq to steal its natural resources," said Ahmed Abdul-Hussein, 55, in Kut.

In Sadr City, the stronghold of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, Sheik Suhail al-Akabi described the anniversary as the "ominous day of the invasion," and called for a demonstration on April 9, the anniversary of Baghdad's fall, "to call for the departure of the occupying forces."

Al-Sadr's followers have been some of the most adamant voices calling for U.S. troops to immediately leave Iraq.

The U.S. military said there were no ceremonies or special events to mark the anniversary. At least 4,386 U.S. military personnel have died in Iraq since the war began, according to an Associated Press count.

Those numbers have tapered off significantly as violence has dropped and U.S. forces have limited their operations as part of the U.S.-Iraq pact under which American forces pulled out of Iraqi cities.

Last year, 152 American service members died in Iraq, compared to 314 a year earlier, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press using data from the U.S. Defense Department.

The number of troops in Iraq has also dropped significantly since the height of the war in October 2007, when the U.S. had about 170,000 troops in the country. About 95,000 remain, and that number is expected to fall to 50,000 by the end of August under President Barack Obama's plan to remove all combat troops from the country. All American troops are scheduled to leave by the end of 2011. □



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Bolivian who captured 'Che' wanted for questioning

CARLOS VALDEZ,
Associated Press Writer

LAPAZ, Bolivia (AP)—The retired general who captured legendary revolutionary Ernesto “Che” Guevara was summoned Friday by Bolivian authorities investigating an alleged plot against President Evo Morales.

Former Gen. Gary Prado allegedly exchanged “ultrasecret” encrypted e-mail with Eduardo Rozsa, a Bolivian-born Hungarian who was slain in an April 2009 raid by an elite police unit.

Authorities allege that Rozsa and two other men killed — an Irishman and an ethnic Hungarian from Romania — were involved in a conspiracy to create a separatist right-wing militia in the eastern, opposition-dominated state of Santa Cruz.

Morales said when they were killed that a plot to assassinate him had been foiled.

Prado denied Friday he had anything to do with an anti-government conspiracy and said he would refuse to travel from his home in Santa Cruz, the state capital, to La Paz for questioning.

Also summoned was Prado’s son, who carries the same name and is running for mayor of Santa Cruz.

He said the allegations were worse than a “bad soap opera.”

Bolivians will elect mayors and governors across the country April 4, when the immensely popular Morales hopes to consolidate power with gains in the eastern lowlands. Wealthy ranchers and agro-businessmen in the east oppose Morales’ policy of seizing fallow lands and giving them to poor peasants from Bolivia’s long-suppressed indigenous majority.

Prosecutor Marcelo Soza did not say whether authorities had been able to decrypt the e-mails he said were exchanged by the elder Prado and Rozsa, a journalist-adventurer who fought for Croatia after Yugoslavia dissolved.

Prado did not deny knowing Rozsa, who he said had approached him to inquire about his involvement in the 1967 capture of Guevara. The Argentine hero of the Cuban revolution was trying to foment an uprising in Bolivia and was later executed.

Prado, then an army captain, commanded the patrol that captured him.

The Rozsa case has major political overtones. The Morales government contends prominent



Bolivia’s President Evo Morales, right, and Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera speak during a press conference at the government palace in La Paz, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Morales and Linera announced the will donate half of their February salaries to encourage Bolivian people to take part on a national fundraising program to help the quake-shattered Haiti and Chile.

opposition leaders in Santa Cruz were involved.

One of them, Branko Marinkovic, was implicated this week by a former close associate who told prosecutors Marinkovic helped fund Rozsa’s group.

The accusation prompted

Marinkovic, the son of Croatian immigrants, to slip out of the country. Marinkovic’s lawyer denies his client’s involvement in the alleged conspiracy.

Shortly after Morales’ December re-election, the government confiscated land from Marinkovic.



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World diplomats urge re-sumption of Mideast talks

left, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton enter a hall for talks in Moscow, Russia, Friday, March 19, 2010. Clinton is participating in a meeting of the quartet of Middle East peace mediators - the U.S., Russia, the EU and the United Nations.

Associated Press

ROBERT BURNS

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested Friday that the United States and Israel have found a way around the worst disagreement the two allies have faced in years while international diplomats set goals for new U.S.-backed peace talks aimed at establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The so-called Quartet group of Mideast negotiators met in the Russian capital to set the stage for peace talks in which the United States would be a go-between. Those indirect talks would be the first under the Democratic Obama administration and the hawkish Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

At a news conference after the meeting, Clinton spoke approvingly of indications Netanyahu is ready to address U.S. concerns about new Jewish housing that complicates peace efforts. “What I heard from the prime minister in response to the requests we made was useful and productive,” she said, “and we are continuing our discussions with him and his government.”

That was a far cry from Clinton’s earlier condemnation of the housing plan in east Jerusalem as an insult, delivered for

maximum effect during a visit to Jerusalem by Vice President Joe Biden. Clinton had a curt conversation with Netanyahu a week ago in which she laid out U.S. expectations from here, including a rollback to the housing plan, a gesture of good faith to the Palestinians and an express statement that all issues dividing Israel and the Palestinians, including the fate of divided Jerusalem, remain part of the negotiations.

Underscoring U.S. optimism that the episode is past, Clinton dispatched U.S. Mideast peace envoy George Mitchell to visit Israel and the West Bank to try to get the talks going. Mitchell attended Friday’s talks.

Clinton said she expects to see Netanyahu in Washington next week. Both are to address the annual gathering of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and they plan a separate meeting. It is not clear whether Netanyahu will see other U.S. leaders. President Barack Obama had planned to be out of town during Netanyahu’s visit but he canceled his trip so that he could remain in Washington for what could be a final vote on his health care overhaul.

“We are all committed to the launching of proximity talks between the Israelis and Palestinians,” Clinton told reporters in Moscow, referring to the negotiations in which the U.S. would have a go-between role.

A spokesman for Netanyahu had no comment.

The Quartet group called on Israel and the Palestinians to return to peace negotiations with the goal of creating an independent Palestinian state within two years. They reiterated condemnation of

Israel’s latest move to add Jewish housing in disputed east Jerusalem but did not escalate criticism of the Jewish state.

Palestinians want the traditionally Arab east Jerusalem as the capital for their future state.

The Quartet group of peacemakers — the U.S., Russia, the United Nations and the European Union — is meant to represent an international consensus on the importance of pressing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and a commitment to establishing a Palestinian state as part of that process. Of the four members, the United States customarily has been the least inclined to criticize Israel.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a joint news conference that the Israelis and Palestinians should move first to indirect talks, followed by face-to-face negotiations. The idea is that each side would convey messages through a U.S. envoy, who would shuttle between sides. Those indirect talks were to have started last week but were stalled by reaction to Israel’s announcement of new housing in east Jerusalem.

Before the housing spat, Netanyahu had welcomed the prospect of negotiations but staked out tougher positions than his predecessor. For instance, he refused to consider a partition of Jerusalem and insisted on keeping key areas of the West Bank that Palestinians say belong to them.

Netanyahu has also resisted a complete settlement construction freeze, agreeing only to curb construction in the West Bank for 10 months, but not in east Jerusalem. □

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'Lawyer' for U.S. missionaries in Haiti is arrested

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ, Associated Press Writer
SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A fugitive who once acted as the lawyer for a group of U.S. Baptist missionaries accused of kidnapping 33 Haitian children was arrested on human-trafficking charges, authorities said Friday.

Jorge Puello, 32, was detained at the United States' request as he left a McDonald's restaurant late Thursday in the Dominican capital, Santo Domingo, said National Drug Control Agency spokesman Roberto Lebron.

A judge has 30 days to meet with Puello, Dominican authorities,

and an attorney representing the U.S. government before deciding whether to honor the government's extradition request, he said.

Puello is wanted in the U.S. state of Vermont and in Canada for smuggling illegal immigrants, and in the U.S. city of Philadelphia for probation violations related to fraud charges, said a statement from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He is wanted in El Salvador for crimes against children; sexual exploitation of minors for pornography and prostitution; organized crime; and human trafficking, ICE said. Interpol issued an arrest

warrant for Puello at El Salvador's request.

Puello has denied all of the allegations. His mother, Soledad Puello, secretary of internal affairs for the National Party of Veterans and Civilians, told The Associated Press on Friday that she will represent him in court.

"In the Dominican Republic ... the entire community will come out to defend him," she said. Soledad Puello had told the AP on Thursday that she and others were negotiating with Salvadoran prosecutors for her son to turn himself in.

Puello initially served as legal adviser and spokesman for the 10 U.S. Baptists who were detained in Haiti on child-kidnapping charges in February, but authorities later identified him as the man

wanted in El Salvador.

Puello attracted international attention when he provided the missionaries with food, medicine and legal assistance. One of the Baptists' Haitian lawyers, Aviol Fleurant, told the AP that Puello absconded with \$30,000 in legal fees the Americans had raised for Fleurant.

Puello, who was born in New York but holds both U.S. and Dominican citizenship, told the AP last month that he was innocent of all accusations.

Nine of the missionaries, most of whom are from Idaho, have been released from jail and returned to the United States. Group leader Laura Silsby remains in custody at the police station that is being used as Haiti's temporary government headquarters. □



In this photo taken Feb. 8, 2010, Jorge Puello, a Dominican legal advisor who was hired by the relatives of the 10 Americans that were arrested while trying to bus children out of Haiti without proper documents or government permission, arrives to the court building in Port-au-Prince.

Associated Press



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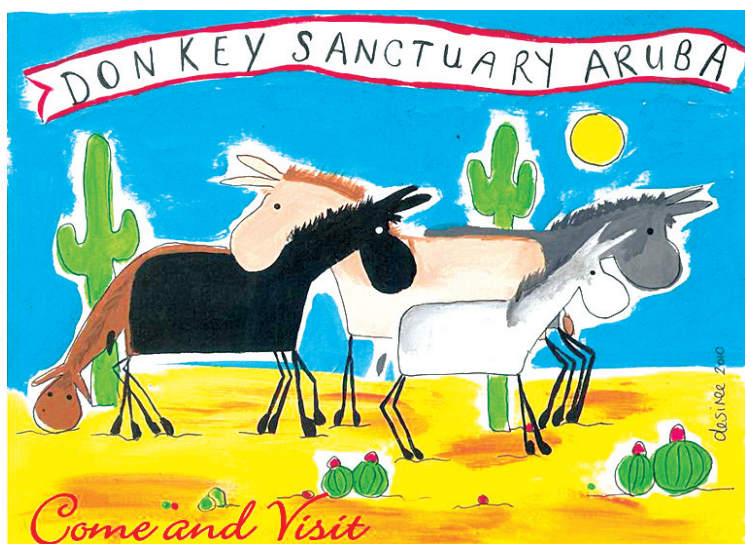
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Court: Anna Nicole Smith gets none of oil fortune



In this Aug. 24, 2007 file photo, Anna Nicole Smith leaves the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. A federal appeals court says Anna Nicole Smith's estate will receive none of the more than \$300 million that she claimed her late billionaire husband had promised her. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is the latest stop in the 15-year legal battle over the \$1.6 billion estate that oil magnate J. Howard Marshall left after his 1995 death at age 90.

Associated Press

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court ruled Friday that Anna Nicole Smith's estate will get none of the more than \$300 million the late Playboy model claimed a Texas billionaire to whom she was briefly married meant to leave her after he died.

The ruling came in a 15-year legal battle that started in a sleepy Houston probate court and stretched all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It initially pitted Smith against the son of J. Howard Marshall over the \$1.6 billion estate the oil tycoon left after his 1995 death at age 90. J. Howard Marshall had wed Smith the year before when she was 26.

Marshall's son E. Pierce Marshall died in 2006 and Smith perished after a drug overdose in 2008. Their heirs and lawyers kept up the legal fight that included one ruling awarding Smith \$474 million.

Kent Richland, who represents the Smith estate, said he would appeal the latest

ruling but hasn't decided whether to ask the appeals court for another hearing or take the case back to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding different issues.

Eric Brunstad, a lawyer for Marshall family members, said they hoped the legal fight was over.

"Our only wish would be that Pierce were here to see his vindication," the family said in a prepared statement.

The three-judge appeals court panel ruled unanimously that a 2001 jury verdict in Houston in favor of the Marshall family should be honored over two federal court rulings in Smith's favor.

The appeals court said the federal bankruptcy court award of about \$447 million and a subsequent federal trial court ruling that lowered the amount to \$89 million should be ignored.

The appeals court said the Houston jury heard from all the parties, including Smith, during a five-month trial in which she accused E. Pierce Marshall of illegally coercing his father to keep the reality TV star out of his will. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Will US lose its triple-A ranking? Investors yawn

BERNARD CONDON,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the financial equivalent of a high medal count at the Olympics or a seat on the U.N. Security Council — a triple-A credit rating, the seal of approval that lets investors know a country's bonds are safe.

The U.S. is one of a small number of nations with the coveted rating — for now. Moody's Investors Service warned this week that the government's massive debt burden could cost the country its triple-A.

Yet the reaction from investors and the public has mostly been a shrug. The stock market was briefly rattled, then resumed its gradual climb. And ordinary folks didn't seem to notice a report raising the possibility that their children and grandchildren face a lower standard of living thanks to mounting government debt. A triple-A rating says a country is very unlikely to default on its debt. Like a homeowner with a good credit rating, countries with this exalted status get better interest rates when borrowing with notes and bonds.

A downgrade often means they have to offer higher rates to get investors to bite, a move that ripples through the credit markets and in turn hikes rates on mortgages, credit cards and car and business loans.

"It's a little scary," says Benn Steil, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. The U.S. debt situation "is serious, and it needs to be addressed now."

Countries and territories in the world deemed safe enough to merit triple-A by another credit agency, Standard & Poor's, now number a mere 18 out of 123 rated. France, Germany and Britain earn top marks, as do some curiosities like the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Moody's technically calls the rating Aaa, while S&P calls it AAA.

Japan dropped out of this elite group in 2001. In March, Ireland was downgraded. Spain lost bragging rights in January.

The next step down at Moody's is Aa1. At S&P, it's called AA+. Either one would be far ahead of most other countries but still something of an embarrassment for the United States.

It's an unlikely step, money managers say. A big reason is that it's easy for the U.S. to borrow, even with high debt, because there's natural demand for Treasuries.

It's the asset of choice for central banks' reserves, a sort of rainy day fund for countries. People also like to hold dollars because it's the currency of international trade. If you want to buy oil, for instance, you need to do it in dollars.

Another reason investors are brushing off a possible downgrade: Rating agencies have warned before that the U.S. could lose its triple-A, and rates on U.S. debt have stayed low anyway.

Maybe they shouldn't be. The United States' finances aren't looking so good lately.

The U.S. deficit hit \$1.4 trillion for fiscal year 2009, three times higher than the year before. That is 10 percent of gross domestic product, the highest since 1945. And U.S. debt held by the public, reflecting years of previous deficits, now stands at \$7.5 trillion, or 53 percent of GDP — the highest level since 1955.

Another worry: The U.S. depends on the kindness of strangers to finance the debt. Forty-eight percent of the \$7.5 trillion in tradable Treasuries is held by foreigners. Japan, another big bond issuer, has just 4 percent of its debt in foreign hands. □

Stocks fall as worries about Greek debt return

TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks halted their steady climb Friday after renewed concerns about Greece's ability to pay its debts left investors questioning a global economic recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 37 points after advancing for eight straight days. Broader indexes also fell. Major indexes posted gains for the week.

Greece said it might need to turn to the International Monetary Fund for support if European leaders can't agree on a bailout plan next week. Worries about the country's ability to handle its massive debt load have set off periodic bouts of stock selling in the U.S. and overseas over the past two months.

Investors also were cautious after India's central bank raised interest rates to combat rising prices. That prompted concern that central banks in other countries would follow suit. Reports in the U.S. during the week signaled that inflation is minimal.

The news out of Greece and India chilled an advance in U.S. stocks that grew out of rising optimism about a recovery. "The economic data so far continues to be friendly, but there are a lot of concerns out there," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at the brokerage Avalon Partners Inc. in New York. "The Greek situation is affecting the dollar."

The dollar, regaining its appeal as a safe investment, rose against the euro and other currencies. Concerns remain that debt problems could spill over to other weak European countries like Spain and Portugal, Cardillo said.

Stocks in the U.S. have been rising since a January-February slump. Investors are encouraged that the economy



Charles Solomon, a trader with Barclay's, reviews stock information on a monitor during late trading at the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday March 18, 2010. Stocks ended mixed after reports signaled that the economy is slowly growing.

(AP Photos/Bebeto Matthews)

is getting better, even if it's at a slow pace. The modest improvements have translated into a stock market that creeps higher rather than leaps as it did last year. Still, even with incremental gains some analysts warn that the market needs some pullbacks to avoid getting overheated.

The Dow fell 37.19, or 0.3 percent, to 10,741.98. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.93, or 0.5 percent, to 1,159.90. The Nasdaq composite index fell 16.87, or 0.7 percent, to 2,374.41.

The Dow on Thursday closed at its highest level since Oct. 1, 2008. Broader indexes are in a similar range so the retreat Friday wasn't surprising. Many traders like to sell some of their stronger holdings when the market pushes to new highs.

Three stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 2 billion shares, compared with 924 million Thursday. Volume was heavy Friday in part because of the quarterly expiration of four kinds options and futures contracts.

For the week, the Dow rose 1.1 percent, the S&P 500 index advanced 0.9 percent and the Nasdaq rose 0.3 percent.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the

benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.70 percent from 3.68 percent late Thursday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Crude oil fell \$1.52 to settle at \$80.68 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as the dollar rose. The stronger dollar made commodities more expensive to foreign buyers. That hurt demand.

A planned House vote Sunday on a proposed health care overhaul also made investors more uncertain, though many health stocks rose.

Stephen Lieber, chief investment officer at Alpine Woods Investments in Purchase, New York, said investors were trying to determine what might occur over the weekend and whether the Senate would vote on a version of the bill next week without making major changes.

"We're floating around in a big question mark," he said. Among health stocks, UnitedHealth Group Inc. rose 80 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$34.39, while Cigna Corp. rose \$1.24, or 3.5 percent, to \$37.08.

In other trading, Palm Inc. tumbled after reporting a wider-than-expected quarterly loss late Thursday. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Jankovic, Roddick move on at Indian Wells

BETH HARRIS,
AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Jelena Jankovic defeated Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-4 Friday to reach the women's final of the BNP Paribas Open.

The sixth-seeded Serb will try to win her first title in seven months on Sunday. Jankovic will face either No. 2 seed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark or fifth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who met in an evening semifinal.

Andy Roddick advanced to the men's semifinals with a 6-3, 7-5 win over 18th-seeded Tommy Robredo of Spain, who lost to the American for the 11th consecutive time. Roddick will take on either Andy Murray or Robin Soderling, who played later

Friday.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal plays 20th-seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia in the other men's semifinal Saturday. Jankovic is having her best results of the year. She's dropped just one set in five matches at Indian Wells. The world's former top-ranked player had little trouble dispatching Stosur, who will enter the top 10 for the first time when the WTA Tour rankings are released Monday.

Stosur hadn't dropped a set in her four previous matches.

"It was a great week," she said, "but I definitely didn't play anywhere close to as well as what I can."

Jankovic last won a title in August at Cincinnati.

She and Stosur were tied two-all in the first set, with Stosur

serving at 40-love. She wound up getting broken, one of five straight games she lost to drop the set.

"All the frustration and anger built up and I let that carry on too long," the Aussie said. "Before you know it, you're a step behind the ball and totally getting dictated to."

That's exactly what Jankovic wanted. She broke Stosur to go up 3-2 in the second set, and then won three of the next five games to close out the 1½-hour match on a day when temperatures soared to almost 90 degrees.

"Samantha has an unbelievable serve, one of the best serves in the women's game, and I was able to return a lot of her first serves," Jankovic said. "I think she felt uncomfortable because she really relies on that shot. That's her best weapon." □



Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, serves to Samantha Stosur of Australia, during their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 19, 2010, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

Armstrong pulls out of Milan-San Remo



Seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong crosses the finish line of the Cape Argus Cycling race in Cape Town, South Africa, Sunday, March 14, 2010. Armstrong took part as one of 35,000 cyclists in the race.

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Lance Armstrong pulled out of Saturday's Milan-San Remo race, citing acute gastroenteritis. Team RadioShack said the seven-time Tour de France champion would be replaced by Fumiyuki Beppu.

"It would not be very intelligent to let him start in a race of almost 300K, while not being healthy," team

director Johan Bruyneel said in a statement Friday.

The Milan-San Remo is the opening single-day classic of the cycling season, and at 298 kilometers (185 miles) is one of the longest of the year.

Armstrong finished 125th in San Remo last year in one of his first races back from three years in retirement. Before retiring in 2005, he raced the Milan-San Remo six times and never won.

Armstrong is set to face his fierce rival and former teammate Alberto Contador next week at the Criterium International in Corsica.

Armstrong is also now scheduled to ride in next month's Circuit de la Sarthe in France as part of his preparation for the Tour de France. It will be his fourth appearance in the race, which will take place from April 6-9.

Armstrong rode the Circuit de la Sarthe in 1999, 2001 and 2003, winning a stage three months before his first Tour win in 1999. □

Woods won't have new sponsor logo on golf bag

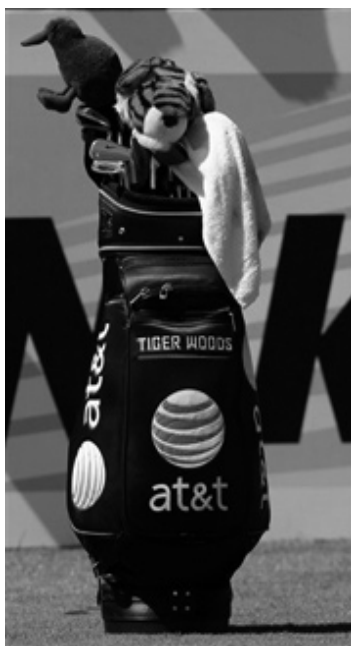
DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods won't replace AT&T with a new corporate sponsor on his golf bag when he returns at the Masters, instead using his Nike brand.

AT&T dropped him as a sponsor on Dec. 31 in the midst of the scandal over his private life. It will be the first time since he turned pro that Woods has used an existing sponsor's logo on the bag. The golf bag and hat are the two areas in golf where companies get the most television exposure.

"We are not actively pursuing new business partnerships at this point in time," Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at IMG, said Friday in a text



FILE - This Nov. 11, 2009, file photo shows Tiger Woods golf bag on the 18th tee during a Pro-Am match ahead of the Australian Masters golf tournament in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

message.

Steinberg said Woods will be using the "TW" brand at Nike, his longest corporate sponsor. It will be the fourth logo on Woods' bag in his professional career. He started with Titleist from 1996 before signing an endorsement deal with Buick that lasted through the 2008, ending early when GM filed for bankruptcy. Woods then signed on with AT&T, which also sponsors a PGA Tour event that supports Woods' foundation. AT&T was the second sponsor (behind Accenture) to drop Woods over revelations he had been cheating on his wife. AT&T is still title sponsor of Woods' tournament, although Woods will not be the tournament host this year. □

Harrington takes early lead at Transitions Championship

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) — Pdraig Harrington, already assured of a memorable week after his St. Patrick's Day trip to the White House, put himself in position to make it even better at the Transitions Championship on Friday. Harrington picked up a pair of bonus birdies over the last five holes for a 6-under 65, his low score of the year, and built a one-shot lead going into the weekend on the tough Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

The Irishman has not won a sanctioned tournament since his PGA Championship victory at Oakland Hills at the end of 2008.

"I'm capable of winning in the

form I'm in," said Harrington, who was at 8-under 134. "Am I in my best form? No. Am I getting there? Yes. I'm kind of in the form that I was in at the end of last year. I'm right in the midst of it."

Jim Furyk, whose last victory against a full field came in the 2007 Canadian Open, was atop the leaderboard with Harrington until missing a 6-foot par putt on the final hole. It wasn't enough to take away from an otherwise solid round of 68 to put him one shot behind.

Also at 7-under 135 were Carl Pettersson (68), a past winner at Innisbrook who is feeling much better after regaining some girth; Bubba Watson, who missed a 4-foot birdie putt on his final hole and had

65; and defending champion Retief Goosen after a 68.

Steve Stricker played the final eight holes in even par and still shot a 66, putting him in the group two shots behind. Stricker, the highest-ranked player at Innisbrook at No. 2 in the world, was poised to catch Harrington until he hit driver on the 16th hole to make sure he cleared the water, went too far and had his ball land next to a tree, leading to bogey. Still, he accomplished his goal of getting into the hunt, especially since he was seven shots behind when he started. "Today was a key round to get back in the tournament," he said.

David Toms had the best turnaround, an 8-under 63 that



Pdraig Harrington, of Ireland, checks the distance on the fifth green during the second round of the Transitions Championship golf tournament Friday, March 19, 2010, at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Michael Jordan calls owning Bobcats "dream come true"



Former NBA player Michael Jordan speaks during a news conference Thursday, March 18, 2010, in Charlotte, N.C. Jordan told reporters and season ticket holders it's a "dream come true" to own the Charlotte Bobcats.

MIKE CRANSTON,

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Michael Jordan vows to help Charlotte experience what winning is about, telling reporters and season ticket holders it's a "dream come true" to own the Bobcats.

Thursday's whirlwind of media interviews comes a day after the rest of the NBA's owners approved

his \$275 million purchase from Bob Johnson. Jordan is the first former player to own an NBA team, and the second black majority owner. Johnson was the first.

Jordan had been a part owner of the Bobcats with the final say on all basketball decisions since 2006. But he hired a general manager and was rarely heard from or seen in Charlotte.

That's changed since he agreed just before midnight on Feb. 26 to buy the team outright. Jordan, who has attended all but one home game since striking the all-cash deal, says he'll spend more time in Charlotte to build the franchise, but will also maintain a home in Chicago.

"I am with this team, thick and thin," Jordan said. "My No. 1 priority is the Charlotte Bobcats, without a doubt."

Dressed in a brown suit and gold tie, the six-time NBA champion and Hall of Famer said he hears the criticism of his past personnel decisions in stints with the Bobcats and the Washington Wizards, but he'll be relentless in "finding ways to win."

It's a return home for Jordan, who grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, before leading North Carolina to the 1982 national championship. □

was 11 shots better than his opening round. The former PGA champion then revealed he had a shoulder injury that could keep him out between the Masters and U.S. Open if he chose to have surgery.

Geoff Ogilvy, Lucas Glover and Trevor Immelman were among the 86 players who made the cut on the number at 2-over 144.

Harrington spent so much of last year trying to find a swing key that he was rarely in contention until August. He started this year with a stronger focus on scoring, and this is his best opportunity yet.

"I'll take the attitude I've been taking for the first two days, which is fire away and not worry about it until I get up there," he said. "It has not cost me too badly so far, so I'll kind of stick with that for two more days."

Harrington allowed himself a distraction by taking a whirlwind trip to Washington on Wednesday to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with President Barack Obama and Ireland's prime minister Brian Cowen. Harrington wouldn't trade the experience, even though he didn't greet the president.

"If I thought going to the White House was going

to detrimentally affect my performance, one or the other would have to be given up, either the tournament or the White House," he said. "I felt that it certainly may put a little bit more risk into the performance, but I didn't think it would detrimentally affect it, and it hasn't, obviously." Furyk was leading this tournament after the first round a year ago, only to follow with a 78. The same questions he faced a year ago have not left him: When is he going to win again?

He did win the Chevron World Challenge in December against a world-class field of 18 that moved him back into the top 10. Despite not winning on the PGA Tour since 2007, Furyk has done enough right to still be in the top 10.

Still, not winning and taking that trip to Kapalua with other PGA Tour winners gnaws at him.

"I'm bothered by it because it's my fault," Furyk said. "So I would really like to change that."

Justin Leonard had a hole-in-one with a 7-iron on the 13th hole, while Adam Scott got back in the game with four birdies on the opening six holes on his way to a 66. □

NHL Roundup

Bruins retaliate against Cooke, lose to Penguins



Pittsburgh Penguins' Ruslan Fedotenko, left, of Ukraine, celebrates with Tyler Kennedy (48) after Kennedy scored a goal during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins on Thursday, March 18, 2010, in Boston.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Marc-Andre Fleury made 17 saves for Pittsburgh's first shutout of the season in the Penguins' 3-0 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday.

Cooke, whose blindside hit sidelined Boston's Marc Savard indefinitely with a Grade 2 concussion in Pittsburgh on March 7, took the ice for the first time 1:53 into the game as fans booed loudly. Just 5 seconds later, he and Shawn Thornton brushed against each other in the faceoff circle to the left of the Penguins net.

They dropped their gloves and, in a brief exchange, traded punches before Cooke's helmet fell off and he went to the ice. Thornton, who kept swinging while Cooke was crouched in a vulnerable position, was given a 10-minute misconduct.

Tyler Kennedy, Alex Ponikarovsky and Michael Rupp scored.

At Sunrise, Florida, Radim

Vrbata scored with a minute left in the third period to force overtime, then added the winner in the third round of a shootout for Phoenix's franchise-record 44th victory of the season.

Martin Hanzal and Lee Stempniak also scored in the third period to help the Coyotes stretch their winning streak to seven games. The Coyotes broke the franchise mark set by the 1984-85 Winnipeg Jets — before overtime ties were broken in shootouts.

David Booth, Cory Stillman and Stephen Weiss scored for Florida.

At Raleigh, North Carolina, Ray Whitney scored at 4:02 of overtime as Carolina edged Washington.

Eric Fehr forced the overtime for Washington, scoring with 10 seconds left in regulation and goalie Semyon Varlamov off for an extra attacker.

Washington played without captain and scoring leader Alex Ovechkin, who is serving the second of a two-game suspension for his hit on Chicago defenseman Brian Campbell.

Eric Staal had a goal and set up Whitney's winner, and Brett Carson and Chad LaRose also scored for Carolina. Defenseman Joe Corvo, obtained from the Hurricanes in a March 3 trade, had Washington's first two goals. Sabres 6, Lightning 2

At Tampa, Florida, Jason Pominville scored three goals as Buffalo moved within four points of New Jersey for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Pominville scored twice in the first period and Tyler Myers added a goal to help Buffalo take a 3-0 lead. Derek Roy had a short-handed goal and an assist, Thomas Vanek also scored, and Ryan Miller made 23 saves for Buffalo.

Steve Downie and Vincent Lecavalier had third-period goals for Tampa Bay.

At Los Angeles, Tomas Kopecky scored twice in a 3:20 span in the third period, and Antti Niemi made 17 saves for Chicago for his fifth career shutout.

Troy Brouwer opened the scoring in the second period.

An Vancouver, British Columbia, Ryan Kesler and Alexander Edler each had a goal and an assist for Vancouver, and Ryan Johnson scored his first goal of the season.

Roberto Luongo made 32 saves as Vancouver beat San Jose for just the second time in 10 games over the last three seasons to move five points up on Colorado in the Northwest Division and within five of the Sharks atop the Western Conference.

Ryan Clowe and Joe Pavelski scored for the Sharks, who have lost four straight.

At New York, Paul Kariya scored his 400th NHL goal to snap a third-period tie as St. Louis took advantage of uncharacteristically shaky New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, scoring four times on its first 14 shots.

Just 1:13 after Wade Redden got the Rangers even at 3, Kariya took a feed in front from T.J. Oshie and scored his milestone goal. Brad Boyes and defensemen Mike Weaver and Erik Johnson also scored, and Ty Conklin made 26 saves.

Marian Gaborik had a goal and two assists, and Ryan Callahan also scored for New York. The Rangers are tied with Atlanta for ninth place in the Eastern Conference, three points behind Boston with 11 games left.

At Atlanta, Nik Antropov and Colby Armstrong scored two goals each as Atlanta gave itself hope in the playoff race with a second straight victory.

Evgeny Artyukhin and Jim Slater also scored for the Thrashers, three points out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Chris Kelly, Jarkko Ruutu and Chris Phillips scored for Ottawa. The Senators have lost seven of eight games since the Olympic break, including the last four.

In other NHL matches it was, Toronto 2, New Jersey 1, SO; Phoenix 4, Florida 3, SO; Pittsburgh 3, Boston 0; St. Louis 4, N.Y. Rangers 3; Carolina 4, Washington 3, OT; Atlanta 6, Ottawa 3; Buffalo 6, Tampa Bay 2; Nashville 5, Minnesota 0; Philadelphia 3, Dallas 2; Vancouver 3, San Jose 2; and Chicago 3, Los Angeles 0. □



Orlando Magic guard Vince Carter (15) shoots as Miami Heat center Jermaine O'Neal, right, defends in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Vince Carter scored 27 points and Rashard Lewis added 24 including a huge 3-pointer with 28.4 seconds left as the Orlando Magic blew a 12-point lead in the final 5 minutes of regulation before beating the Miami Heat 108-102 in overtime Thursday.

Jameer Nelson scored 15, Matt Barnes finished with

NBA Roundup

Magic waste lead, then beat Heat in OT, 108-102

13 and Dwight Howard had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic, who've won 10 of their last 11 games.

Dwyane Wade had 36 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, which led 100-99 with 3:09 left in overtime, then went scoreless for nearly 2½ minutes. Jermaine O'Neal scored 14 and Carlos Arroyo added 11 for the Heat.

Nuggets 93, Hornets 80 At Denver, Carmelo Anthony pulled down a career-best 18 rebounds to go with his 26 points to lead Denver past New Orleans.

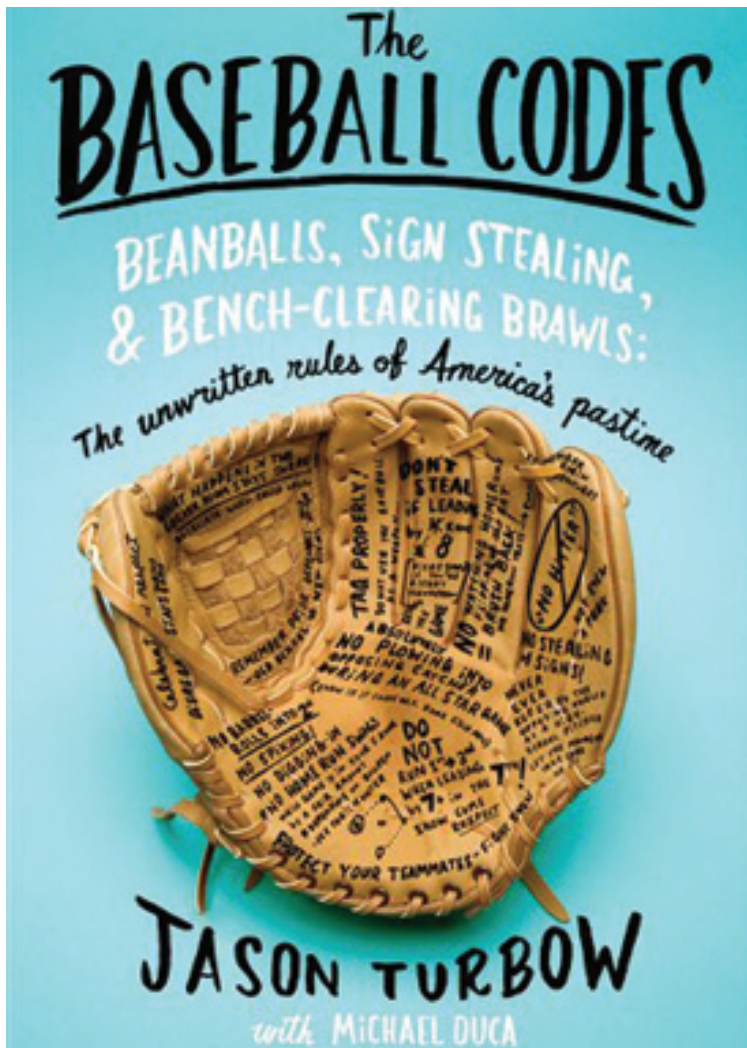
Anthony recorded his third straight double-double and his ninth of the season.

Chris Andersen returned

from two sprained ankles to help clog up the lanes and clean up the glass — he had 13 rebounds — as the Nuggets beat New Orleans for the second time in six nights. The Nuggets (47-22) moved a half-game ahead of Dallas for sole possession of second place in the Western Conference, 3 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Lakers.

J.R. Smith scored 13 of his 17 points in the second quarter to help the Nuggets take control with a 62-37 lead at the half. His back-to-back fastbreak dunks, followed by a twisting layup capped a 13-0 run that gave Denver a 50-28 lead.

Author reveals the unwritten rules of baseball



In this book cover image released by Pantheon Books, "The Baseball Codes," by Jason Turbow with Michael Duca is shown.

Associated Press

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

Associated Press Writer

"The Baseball Codes: Beanballs, Sign Stealing, and Bench-Clearing Brawls: The Unwritten Rules of America's Pastime" (Pantheon Books, 304 pages, \$25), by Jason Turbow with Michael Duca: Major League Baseball is a complex, intricate game with a thick rule book that covers everything from balks and bunts to force

plays and foul tips.

MLB's "Official Rules" is a thorough and well-considered treatise that governs America's pastime.

It's not nearly complete, however.

That's because baseball is a game with as many unwritten rules as written ones.

For instance, where in the rule book can you find a discussion of when it's OK to throw at a

batter?

Or administer a hard tag at second?

Which passage addresses by how many runs one team has to lead before it stops trying to steal or take an extra base?

These principles are "less strategic than moral" and "collectively drive the game, forming not just a code but the Code, the ultimate measure used to shape ballplayers' attitudes toward themselves, each other, and the game they play." So writes journalist Jason Turbow in "The Baseball Codes," an entertaining and informative look at the sport's least understood traditions.

If ballplayers adhere to a series of informal doctrines, then consider Turbow the ultimate code breaker.

The codes "are in a constant state of development and evolution," the author writes, and often are fueled by revenge and intimidation.

A few examples:

— Don't play aggressively with a sizable, late-inning lead.

— Don't disrespect the game.

— Don't show up an opponent.

A failure to follow any of these could result in a hard tag on the base paths, a knockdown pitch or a spikes-up slide.

Sure, his book is a well-considered and crafted examination of the motivations behind how hitters and fielders ply their trade.

At its core, though, "The Baseball Codes" is a fun read because of the dozens of great

stories that detail how the game really is played — tales of bench-clearing, headhunting, bat-flipping and sign-stealing. Turbow and his collaborator, Michael Duca, conducted hundreds of interviews and did exhaustive research, and it results in some shocking and hilarious anecdotes that are so outlandish you'd think they were made up.

For instance, future Dodgers manager and then-minor league pitcher Tommy Lasorda once threw at a guy who denied him an autograph seven years earlier when a teenage Lasorda attended a game at Philadelphia's Shibe Park.

If you think Lasorda's memory was long, check out Bob Gibson's.

The Hall of Fame hurler gave up a grand slam to Pete LaCock during a game in 1975. Gibson planned to knock down the slugger the next time he came to the plate.

However, the 39-year-old faced only one more batter that game and then retired. Fifteen years later, though, Gibson finally achieved his objective.

He plunked LaCock in an old-timers' game.

Turbow pulls back the curtain and breaks through the game's shroud of secrecy to deliver a grand slam of a book — timed to the start of spring training when the latest generation of code-adherents brush up not only on baseball's official rules but also the ones known only to those who play the game. □

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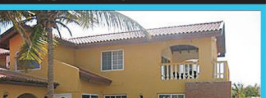
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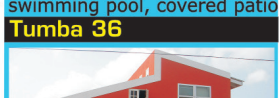
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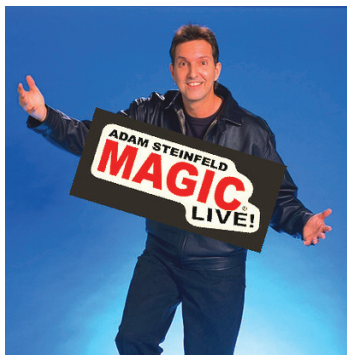
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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba opened on December 25 at 9PM. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's

highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?' Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld opened DEC 25, MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes! Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret. Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR. SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort

CATA concludes at Pure Beach



PALM BEACH – The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) partnered with the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Authority (AHATA) at a farewell banquet hosted in honor of Convencion Anual de Turismo de Aruba (CATA), the Annual Aruban Tourism Conference, which kicked off Monday and concluded Thursday.

Page B2

La Cabana Celebrates Aruba's National Day



EAGLE BEACH -- Aruba's culture was on display last Tuesday March 16th, when La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club held a public celebration in honor of Aruba's Flag & Anthem Day. The pool deck celebration was designed to attract and entertain locals and visitors.

Page B10

AZV expands its services to San Nicolas

ORANJESTAD — The General Medical Insurance Aruba, AZV, just opened its first offices outside the Oranjestad premises. This week, Minister of Public Health Richard Visser joined the AZV executives, celebrating the opening of an office in the San Nicolas Medical Center.

The decision to expand AZV services to San Nicolas is based on the notion to make it more accessible to the public who reside on that area of the island. Before that, anyone would have had to go to Oranjestad for any services from the AZV.

The new offices in the San Nicolas Medical Center will offer the possibility to register to become a client of AZV, prolongation of the registration, adaptation and/or change in personal data, change in general practitioner, pharmacy and dentists.



Moreover, clients in San Nicolas can submit requests for medical treatment coverage in San Nicolas.

According to AZV spokesperson Solange Tchong, the AZV services in San Nicolas are similar to

those provided to clients in the headquarters in Oranjestad.

The AZV offices in San Nicolas operate from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm. Telephone number is 5840030, and there is additional information on

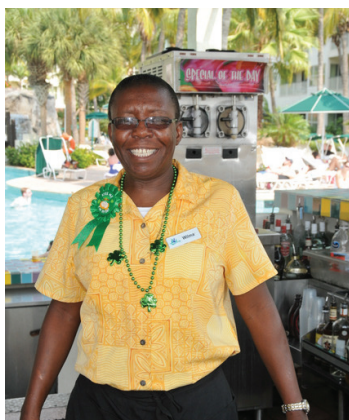
the website, www.azv.aw.

Photos show Minister Wever with his advisor Bart Kool and AZV executives, Director Anko Ringeling and spokesperson Solange Tchong with the AZV San Nicolas staff. □

At the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club The O'Toole's celebrate St. Pat's in the sand

PALM BEACH – Every year the O'Toole family and friends celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the beach at the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club. The couple and their vacation club friends get up early in the morning to decorate their reserved Palapa in the sand with Green Irish garnish and decorations. They spend the entire day on the beach under the sun and the Irish eyes a smiling. Then in the afternoon they host a green cocktail party then an private dinner in their villa. See you again next year and congrats on celebrating your Irish day from the management and staff of the Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club Front Desk. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort

CATA concludes at Pure Beach



PALM BEACH – The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) partnered with the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Authority (AHATA) at a farewell banquet hosted in honor of Convencion Anual de Turismo de Aruba (CATA), the Annual Aruban Tourism Conference, which kicked off Monday and concluded Thursday. CATA is a tourism conference dedicated to the Latin American travel market, and over 85 travel experts and professionals arrived here to participate in the event. The visitors experienced all that Aruba has to offer, with

various lectures, workshops and activities planned at the island's top hotels and attractions. During the three-day conference, the Latin American travel experts enjoyed presentations and special luncheons and dinners, as well as cultural programs. Pictured here conference organizers Miriam Dabian & Mario Arends, ATA, Sue Ann Meyer, AHATA, Fritz Israel, Astrid Muller, Jerusha Rasmijn and Sjedy Feliciano, all top tourism executives here, joined by hoteliers John Neophytou, Gerrit Griffith



& Alex Nieuwmeyer, at Pure Beach, Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, at the farewell banquet of a successful conference.

The resort prepared an interactive dinner buffet featuring just-made fresh seafood and meats, interesting

tossed to order pasta, and a rich and varied dessert display, accompanied by dance music, premium cocktails and fine wines. □



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Photo by Diane Keijzer



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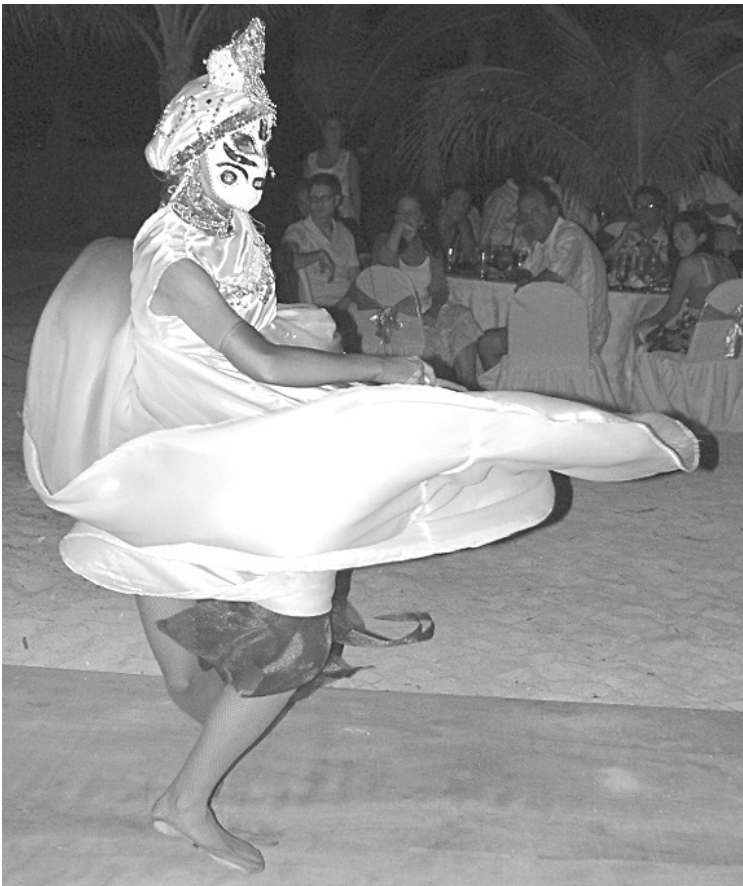
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At the Divi Phoenix

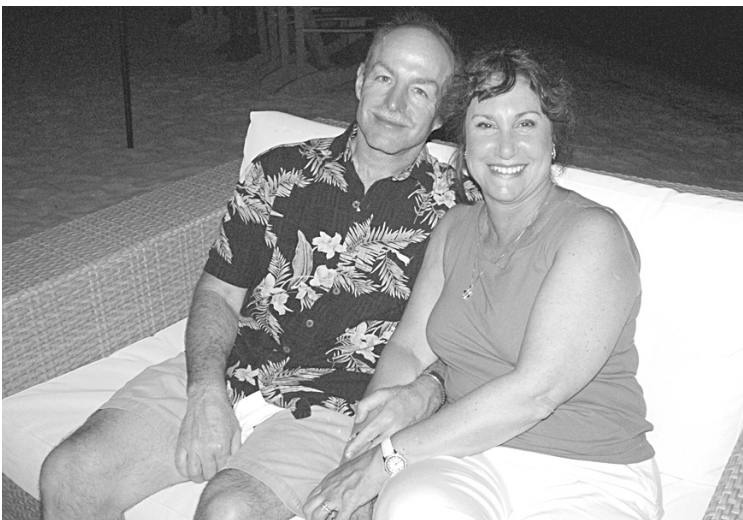
The Marcum Family Lawyers Appreciation Dinner



PALM BEACH – A special appreciation dinner was given in honor of the Marcum Group on the beach at Divi Phoenix. The group of family lawyers from the West Coast of the US, all staying at the Hyatt Regency picked the Sunset Bistro as the perfect setting for their spectacular affair. The entertainment program for the night included the swinging music of the Equator, a dramatic fire dance, a pair of muscular acrobats and the enchanting ritual of Yemanja the goddess of the ocean, performed spectacularly by a troupe of scantily clad Cuban dancers.

The menu prepared by the Divi's culinary team included a choice of Tuna Tataki, Asian Style Shrimp or Absolute Chevere Salad, and for main courses a nice selection of scrumptious dishes such as Grilled Catch of the Day,

Filet Mignon or Portobello with Vanilla ice cream, Mushroom with Seasonal Fresh Veggies. Crème Brule for dessert or homemade Apple Charlotte concluded the banquet offered by Scott, Ilan, Mark & Kevin. Pictured here, spectacular party moments. □



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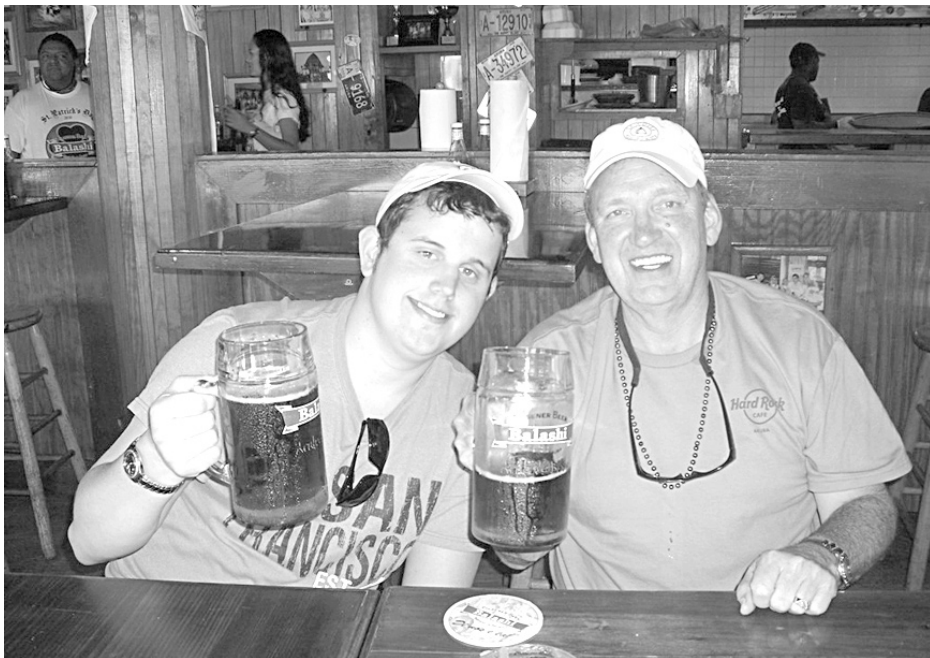
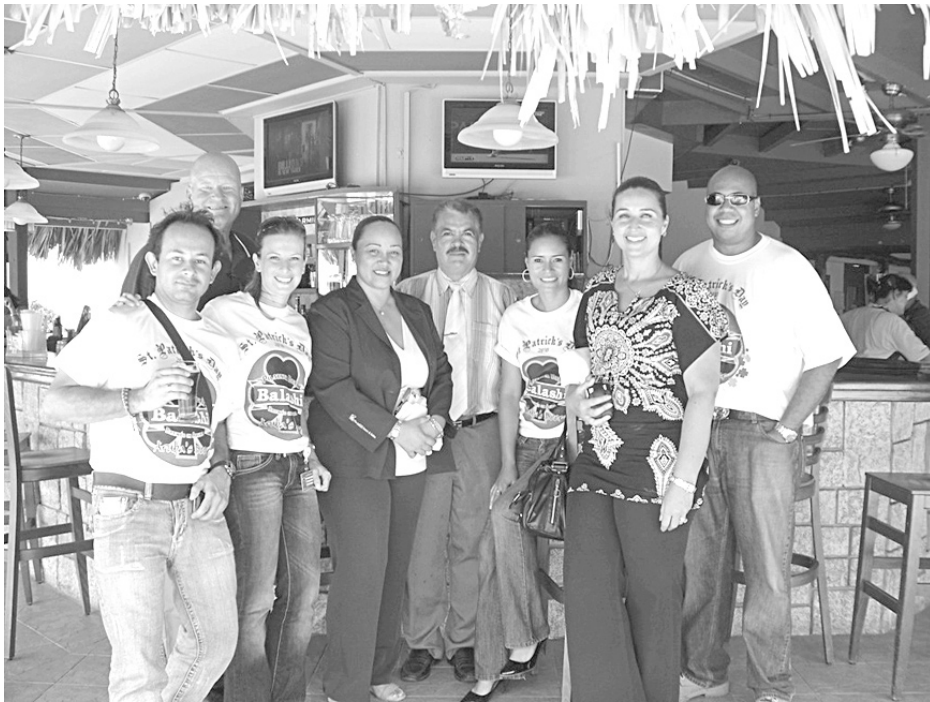
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Green Balashi Beer delighted visitors on Saint Patrick's Day !



PALM BEACH - Last Wednesday, Saint Patty's Day was celebrated in a big way in Aruba! Several bars on the island carried Balashi's Green beer, made especially for this occasion. The makers of this beer are the local Balashi Brewery, producers of Aruba's beer. The Sales and Marketing team of Balashi visited the different bars that had the Balashi Green Beer, such as The Mill bar, Kokomo's, Buster's Garage, Hooters and Hyatt beach bar. As the pictures show, it was indeed a green celebration on this Irish holiday! □



As part of efforts to stimulate early detection of dementia

Free memory screening test today

ORANJESTAD—Students of the Xavier School of Medicine, in conjunction with the Aruba Alzheimer Foundation, are set to offer memory screening tests today at the St. Theresita Center in San Nicolas. The foundation and the students are participating in the Health Screening Fair, scheduled to take place from 8 am to 12 noon.

The National Memory Screening Test is one of the initiatives of the Aruba Alzheimer Foundation, as part of its objective to promote early detection of memory problems. Even though there is still no cure for dementia, including Alzheimer's, early detection is necessary for timely and appropriate intervention. Now the community has the chance to enjoy the free service of professionals who are attending the public this morning.

The screening is confidential and if necessary there will be a follow-up with the general practitioner, with the permission of the person participating in the screening.

Memory problems may be caused by dementia, such as Alzheimer's or other medical and/or emotional conditions. If a person has a significant result, he or she will be advised to seek further medical treatment. Even those who may have a good result, yet still fear they may have some indication of dementia are also urged to visit their doctor in order to conduct more investigation.

The National Memory Screening Test is by no means a diagnostic procedure, and therefore, a 'positive' result should not be interpreted as a diagnosis for Alzheimer type of dementia or conditions related to other possible diseases.

The foundation in addition is providing all available information to the public on dementia, Alzheimer's in particular. Early detection will allow the patient to make timely arrangements, including for care before the disease makes it impossible to make independent decisions.

For more information visit the www.alzheimer-aruba.org. □



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On Aruba's National Day

Locals and Visitors relax at Amazonia Churrascaria over dinner



island vacation, also report Churrascaria experience, but it was their first Amazonia not the last!!



PALM BEACH – Amazonia Churrascaria refreshed and entertained many locals and visitors on Aruba's national holiday Flag & Anthem day. Some members of the local Harley Davidson riders -- a group by the name "Nos cu nos - relax papi t'ey," dropped in for a much-enjoyed dinner. They have been to the restaurant many times, and enjoyed a great meal at the end of a day of relaxation. First time visitors to Amazonia Churrascaria, Mr. & Mrs. William Murray accompanied by Andrea Kearns, and James & Rita Douglas, accompanied by Stacy Wagner, from West Virginia, both parties staying at the Marriott Surf Club report that they heard so much about the restaurant, they had to try it for themselves. First time visitors to the island Rob Duffy and Gaetana Renari, from New York, staying at the Marriott Surf Club, and Jennifer and Neil Waggoner, from Oklahoma, staying at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa on their second



Law to end death penalty sent back to government

WILLEMSTAD--Chairman Pedro Atacho (PAR) confirmed that the Antillean Parliament has sent the proposal to abolish capital punishment back to government for further consideration.

The abolishment of capital punishment was mentioned in the draft ordinance for amendment of the Penal Code as well as the Civil Code. The amendment regards the abolishing of capital punishment, but also combating human trafficking in the Netherlands Antilles.

The Central Committee was not pleased with the formulation of the amendment, as this namely refers to the current penalties of the Penal Code. The members are of the opinion that it should have referred to the penalties in the Penal Code that Parliament is now to discuss.

The aforementioned was the reason for the Central Committee to "recommit" this proposal back to government.

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HUMAN HINTS

Triumph Over Tragedy

We have spoken of the importance of maintaining balance between logic and emotion. When tragedy strikes, sorrow can overwhelm us and we can easily become consumed by negative emotion, stuck in the illusion of separation.

Emotional crisis can strike our lives in any moment. When it does, it is imperative to our survival that we logically understand the natural process of emotional release and that we logically know what we must do to get past an awful

time in our lives.

Before I continue, I want to make clear that it is always prudent to consult a qualified professional to help you through hard times. I am not a qualified professional. With that said, I am a Conscious Human and as such, I have felt the abyss of sorrow, I have watched myself succumb to its endless depths, and I have overcome the temptation to surrender to sorrow.

Emotion comes in waves. When you feel it welling up inside you, what you do in the moment depends on your situation at the time. If you are around people as you should be after a tragedy, you will want to use the opportunity to push your emotions down and not allow them to overcome you. You must act normal when you are out in society. It is not socially acceptable to break down or even show any extreme of emotion in public.

When you are alone, you can let the emotional wave pass over you. When you surrender to it, you will feel intense, overwhelming emotion. It can feel like you will die in the next instant, and you are disappointed when relief doesn't come. The emotion will hold your body and mind as long as it can, then it must pass. Luckily, the mind cannot maintain a state of pure emotion for an extended period of time, and the all-encompassing despair and emptiness will fade for a moment, until the emotions well up inside you again, demanding to be released. During the overwhelming moments of despair, remember that the feeling will pass, and you will get through it.

As the cycles of emotion come and go, they will become less frequent, they won't last as long, and they will become less

intense. This is the natural way for the human body to process tragedy. It is extremely powerful to recognize and understand this while it is happening. Allowing the emotion to wash over you will help you release it.

Be aware that there is a fine balance and a danger in surrendering to emotion, because it is easy to get trapped. In the midst of our surrender, when we embrace sorrow, we must be able to regain our composure. We must be able to push the emotion aside, and rely on our logic to take us through daily actions.

At first, we can survive by becoming a robot, going through automatic actions that fill the days. This is good because we still get things done and we continue to put energy into our lives through action. In the face of loss, it is important to stay busy. Do not take time off work. If you have free time outside of work, volunteer or get another job. This is a method of distraction, but it is very helpful to get past the initial stage of loss.

After the immediate shock begins to wear off, it is time to reevaluate your new circumstances. Take stock of where your life is in this moment, now that your situation has changed. Redefine your new priorities, and come up with a short term goal for your future. After tragedy, focusing on short term goals is more important than long term. What do you want to accomplish in one week? One month? This will keep your thoughts and actions focused on a goal, and will also represent something you have achieved in the face of tragedy. That will bring out your personal power.

As you work toward your short term goals, time will pass and a new definition of

yourself will emerge. Your new understanding of yourself will help you determine new long term goals and your newfound personal power will give you the courage to pursue your goals actively and with passion.

Become aware of the five stages of loss, and watch yourself progress through them. Google it.

We have said before that it is not what happens to you, it is how you react to what happens that defines you. Overcoming tragedy is not easy, and takes conscious effort every moment of every day. Human Beings are infinitely powerful. Our ability to triumph in the face of tragedy has been proven throughout history, and continues to be proven every day. Humanity and People are truly amazing. Never underestimate your inherent power as a Human.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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R	EDGE OF DARKNESS	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:45	7:00 late show: 12:00	9:30	
PG	BROOKLYN'S FINEST	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:00	8:45 late show: 11:30	3:00	
PG	VALENTINE'S DAY	daily: 6:30 matinee: 12:45	9:00 late show: 11:45	3:45	
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R	GREEN ZONE	daily: 6:00 matinee: 1:00	8:30 late show: 11:15	3:30	NEW
PG-13	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:00	6:45 late show:	2:15	NEW
R	CASE 39	daily: 5:30 matinee: 12:15	8:15 late show: 11:00	3:00	
PG-13	OUR FAMILY WEDDING	daily: 5:45 matinee: 1:00	8:00 late show: 12:15	10:00	
R	FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	daily: 9:00 matinee:	late show: 11:30		
PG-13	AVATAR	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:15	7:45 late show: 11:00		
R	SHUTTTER ISLAND	daily: 5:45 matinee: 2:45	8:45 late show: 11:45		

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Westin Resort, Aruba's 11th annual Bridal & Social Events Show is coming



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH — The island's largest and most popular wedding and special events show, The Westin Aruba's 11th annual Bridal & Social Events Expo, is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 28th.

The event draws hundreds of locals every year, and promises to be bigger than ever in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom.

The fair attracts top vendors showcasing their products and services that are utilized while planning a wedding, Holy Communion, or any special event. Bakeries, jewelers, hair salons, travel agents, entertainment providers, and florists are just a few of the vendors that will be exhibiting during the fair.

The fair runs from 11:00am to 5:00pm and is highlighted by 2 time fashion show of wedding dresses, Holy Communion attire, and a variety of social occasion dresses. Great door prizes will also be awarded.

Westin Resort, Aruba wedding coordinators & Catering team will be on-hand to book wedding & Event packages for the public.

Thus far, the following vendors and sponsors will participate in the Bridal & Social Events Show: Fatum, Palais Hindu Eagle, Elite Productions, H.K. Tailors, Checkpoint Color, Koolman Flowers & Gifts, Disney Recreacion, Tango Tours Aruba Trading Company, Tropical Bottling Co & Brouwerij



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

Nacional Balashi N.V., Super Limousine and VIP transportation, Mosaic Fabulous Event Planners, CreationAimee, Videography & Photography by George, Cakes by Phillip, Emperatriz Perdomo fotografia professional, A Touch of

Steel, Fashion show done by "Be Beautiful fashion show productions."

Sponsors: Magic FM, Canal 9, Interprint. For more information please contact: Ms. Inge van Roon at Ph.: 526.4450 or Patrick Leppers at 526.4445. □



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

CILO launches new Sunday Brunch



ORANJESTAD - CILO's terrific Sunday Brunch will be held from 11 am – 2 pm. The

the brunch is available in two versions: normal and deluxe. Starting off with a Mimosa, the first of an unlimited supply, then a bread basket with butter and jelly is put on the table, followed by yoghurt and fresh fruit, muesli, ham and Gouda cheese, a pasta salad, smoked salmon, French brie cheese and scrambled eggs with bacon. Coffee or tea are the finale.

The Deluxe version includes all of the above, but with an added tuna salad, shrimps, hash browns, sausages and a dessert platter with fruit fritters, tiramisu, vanilla ice cream and the dessert of the day. The two Sunday brunches are available for a minimum of two persons.

The launch of CILO's Sunday Brunch is on March 21. Marina-view CILO City Lounge is located in the Renaissance Marketplace downtown. □



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Zair Tromp celebrates his first birthday



PALM BEACH – A much give to Zair Tromp in the at the Radisson Aruba Resort
 enjoyed birthday party was Grand Caribbean Ballroom Casino & Spa. The kids



enjoyed a variety of games and music, face painting, spun sugar, sweets and cupcakes, lovingly prepared by Zair's family members for his friends and fans.
 The Radisson banquet & event team wishes Zair many more wonderful years to come. □



La Cabana Celebrates Aruba's National Day



EAGLE BEACH -- Aruba's culture was on display last Tuesday March 16th, when La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club held a public celebration in honor of Aruba's Flag & Anthem Day. The pool deck celebration was designed to attract and entertain locals and visitors. Titled, Aruba -- Our Pride and Treasure, the event included a special happy hour with OREO & CLAUDIUS

PHILLIPS, which commenced with the raising of the flag, the singing of Aruba's national anthem by Hilyann Croes, and an abundance of music and dance with Caha di Orgel "Nos Ambiente," and Nelson Sprock, the Mini Chaz Dancers, child-singer Jairee Oduber, the Youth Chaz Dancers, and the Folkloric dance group of Santa Cruz. The pool deck fiesta offered various food stands featuring



La Cabana's legendary "Bai Plat" Seafood Chowder, and carni stobá, the equally famous beef stew; pickled onions, delicious frekedel snacks, pan bati and fried plantain, perfectly grilled blood sausage, and the best stewed goat under the sun, served with funchi and fried plantain! The dessert stand featured local cake, and traditional tert, cocada, pansuiker, dushi di lechi and more. Naturally the Pata Pata bar mixed Aruba's special cocktails at very low prices, for the duration of the event and the Art & Crafts and souvenirs, rounded up the delightful national experience at Aruba's most active resort La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, sharing Aruba's cultural bounty with its guests. □



Louis Vuitton Women's Fall/Winter 2010-2011

Ready-to-Wear Show to Appear Live on Iphone

And with multi-camera on Facebook



2011 Ready to Wear Show on Facebook and iPhone on March 10, 2010 at 2:30pm (CET) / 8:30 am (EST).

Louis Vuitton was the first luxury goods brand to develop a fully integrated digital communications strategy, "The Art of Travel By Louis Vuitton", which began with the launch of an official "Tweet" on Twitter and the creation of an official Facebook fan page in June 2009 (www.facebook.com/louisvuitton).

This fan page has become the official online destination for everything regarding Louis Vuitton; its specially dedicated content has attracted more than 850,000 fans from all over the world to date.

In October 2009, Louis Vuitton, in line with its tradition of pioneering new territories, was proud to be the first luxury brand to broadcast its fashion show live on Facebook. "A fashion show usually caters to the 1,000 happy few who are invited. This time, we were able to send over 700,000 invitations! Live comments were incredibly positive and

we increased our "fan base" by 30 per cent in just a few days," said Antoine Arnault, Communications Director at Louis Vuitton.

As part of its fully integrated digital strategy, Louis Vuitton launched an official Youtube Louis Vuitton channel in November 2009.

On March 10, 2010 at 2.30pm (CET) / 8:30 am (EST), current and future fans of the Louis Vuitton Facebook page will be able to watch the latest Marc Jacobs creations for Louis Vuitton streamed live from Paris Fashion Week. Louis Vuitton is going one step further and is reinforcing its digital presence by offering a live broadcast on your iPhone at fashionshow.louisvuitton.com. Viewers on the Louis Vuitton Facebook fan page will also be given the opportunity to see different views of the Show by choosing between multi-camera. Louis Vuitton is eager to create interaction with its online community; therefore, Facebook fans will also be able to comment on the event live and watch the



ORANJESTAD - Louis Vuitton is proud to announce the live online broadcast of its Women Fall/Winter 2010-



on demand exclusively on the Facebook fan page and on iPhone for a further 24 hours

show alongside their own friends online.

Following the event, a video of the show will be available

No place to hide from the digital revolution

PWC presents the 10th Global Entertainment and Media Outlook



ORANJESTAD — PriceWaterhouseCoopers recently published its tenth annual edition of the Global Entertainment & Media Outlook, which is a consistent, comprehensive source of global analysis, offering past and future data across many industries, in 48 countries.

The survey is available online on the company's website, and provides an overview of Entertainment & Media in an age of digital migration, and by digital migration the survey means the switch to the use of digital everything.

Predictably, the global Entertainment & Media, E&M market as a whole, was strongly affected by the recent economic recession, and will remain weak in 2010, the survey says, then see relatively low growth in 2011.

And looking into the future, over the next five years, digital technologies will become increasingly widespread across all segments of entertainment & media as the digital migration continues to expand

even further, intensifying the use of digital E&M among both providers and consumers of content. Marcel Fenez, Global Leader Entertainment & Media practice, PricewaterhouseCoopers, explains in the reports that: "Companies who grasp the

opportunities which are appearing in this fast changing marketplace and are flexible enough to adapt their business models will be able to take full advantage of the potential and new revenue models as they emerge." If we look around us we can see that

the digital technologies have introduced new consumption habits and "digital behaviors" as consumers seek more control over where, when and how they view, read and listen while, more than ever, watching the pennies and seeking the best value from the choices they make. For example, in previous years consumers were tied to TV and radio schedules, now digital video recorders and video-on-demand free them up, to watch what they want, when they want. And the net-generation exerts strong influences over older generations who are, in turn, also taking a growing interest in new and emerging

ways to view, read and listen. Of course, improved access to the internet via high-end devices such as smartphones, iPods, and the Kindle, give consumers mobility in addition to simple access changing the way with view, read and listen even more. The PricewaterhouseCoopers' Global Entertainment & Media Outlook 2009-2013, in its 10th annual edition contains in-depth analyses and forecast across four regions of the globe: North America (USA, Canada), EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa), Asia Pacific and Latin America. To order copies go to: www.pwc.com/outlook. □

Early elections law in Parliament March 24

WILLEMSTAD--The outgoing Antillean Parliament will handle the "Duncan Law" on early elections for the Island Councils of Curaçao and St. Maarten Wednesday, March 24, two days before the newly elected Parliament takes office.

The amendment (also called a transition measure) is to the Islands Regulation ERNA and requires a two-thirds majority in Parliament to be adopted. The Central Committee of parliament began handling the amendment in February.

The amendment has three aims: to increase the number of Island Council members in St. Maarten from 11 to 15 and the Executive Council from five commissioners to seven; and dissolve the Island Councils of Curaçao and St. Maarten to allow early elections.

The changes are deemed important because of the constitutional change process on the islands.

Constitutional and Home Affairs Minister Roland Duncan has provided answers to questions from parliamentarians in writing.

St. Maarten's parliamentarian Erno Labega (DP) had questions about aspects of the law. The party in opposition at home and in Parliament is not in full support of the draft "Duncan's Law" because it has not been fully explained in St. Maarten.

According to Duncan, it is not necessary that the Island Councils of St. Maarten and Curaçao first adopt the constitution for country St. Maarten and Curaçao respectively (with a two-thirds majority) before the change to the ERNA can take effect.

The Island Councils can deal with the adoption of their constitutions as they deem fit, Duncan said. □

Draft law in parliament differs from one in PCCA

PHILIPSBURG--The draft amendment on early Island Council elections for St. Maarten and Curaçao to be handled in parliament March 24 differs significantly from the draft the National Alliance (NA)-led Executive Council gave its consent to and presented to the Permanent Committee for Constitutional Affairs (PCCA) on Thursday.

Opposition Democratic Party (DP) Island Councilwoman Sarah Wescot-Williams said upon discovering this, party members could have "kicked up a storm" in the PCCA meeting by accusing the NA-led government of misleading the Island Council with a flawed piece of draft legislation.

DP members instead "communicated" their displeasure with these events and the correct draft was distributed during the meeting and the debate continued.

The meeting convocation was called by PCCA Chairman William Marlin on Monday without any documentation to members.

This draft amendment to the Island Regulations aims to expand the Island Council of St. Maarten from 11 to 15 members and the commissioners from five to seven, and allows for dissolution of the Island Councils and the calling of early elections.

Wescot-Williams said when these were requested in the meeting, copies of the draft amendment, the letter from the Central Government proposing the amendment to the Island Government, and the reaction of the Executive Council were provided.

When Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan (NA) started his presentation to the PCCA, DP members recognise that the versions had differed significantly. Only in the draft amendment being handled by parliament outlines that the Constitution for country St. Maarten must be approved before the Island Council is dissolved and new elections called.

In DP's opinion, this amendment creates "a sort of a hybrid parliament" for St. Maarten. The amendment creates the possibility to expand the Island Council but provides nothing else for a well-functioning dualistic system of government, a system which the same law propagates.

"DP also reserved the right to look still closer at the draft which is now before parliament and has advised the Executive Council to do the same," Wescot-Williams said. □

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Colombia rechaza competencia de CIDH para demanda de Ecuador

BOGOTÁ - Colombia rechazó el viernes la competencia de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH) para conocer una demanda de Ecuador por la muerte de uno de sus ciudadanos en el ataque en el que perdió la vida el líder de las FARC Raúl Reyes y que desató una crisis diplomática.

La decisión de Colombia de retirarse de una audiencia citada por el organismo con sede en Washington y adscrito a la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) se produce en momentos en que Bogotá y Quito avanzan en la normalización de sus relaciones después de que Ecuador las rompió.

“Quiero reiterar que hay unos escenarios apropiados para esta discusión. Esta Honorable Comisión, como está suficientemente claro, no es competente para tratar este tema”, dijo el embajador de Colombia ante la OEA, Luis Alfonso Hoyos.



Imagen de archivo de soldados llevando el cuerpo del fallecido líder de las FARC Raúl Reyes, en el aeropuerto militar de Catam, en Bogotá. Marzo 1 2008.

“Colombia lo tratará en los escenarios correspondientes. Y finalmente recordar que Colombia no tiene problemas con el hermano de Ecuador, sino con un grupo de asesinos, narcotraficantes, terroristas y secuestradores llamados FARC”, precisó el diplomático de acuerdo con un comunicado entregado por la Cancillería en Bogotá.

Las Fuerzas Militares de Colombia bombardearon el 1 de marzo del 2008 un campamento de la guerrilla ubicado en una zona selvática de Ecuador, en un ataque en el que murieron Reyes y 24 personas.

El presidente Rafael Correa consideró ese ataque como una masacre que violó la soberanía de su país y rompió relaciones con Colombia desatando una crisis diplomática a la que se sumó Venezuela en respaldo a Ecuador.

El presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe, se reunió en febrero con Correa en México, durante la Cumbre del Grupo de Río, como parte los esfuerzos de los dos países para normalizar sus relaciones diplomáticas. □

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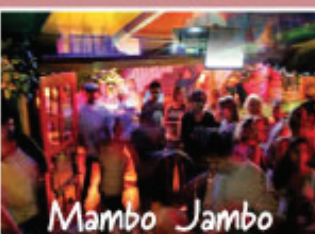
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